(d) if so, the details thereof and it not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of Coconut Oil Through PDS

844. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government have any proposal to supply coconut oil through the Public Distribution System to meet the growing demand of edible oil in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to popularise the use of coconut oil?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not airse;

(c) The Ministers-in-charge of Food and Civil Supplies of all States/UTs have been requested to explore the possibility of procuring and supplying adequate quantities of coconut oil to consumers through fair price shops/Cooperative outlets. The use of coconut oil, without any upward limit, has also been permitted in the manufacture of vanaspati.

Supply of Commodities Under PDS

845. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a "foolproof" policy to ensure that foodgrains and other essential commodities covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS) reach the target population at affordable prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether emphasis has been laid on ensuring that the items disbursed under the PDS are of good quality;

(d) if so, whether quality control is being insured; if not, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the quality of wheat and rice being distributed through the PDS is generally of inferior quality and complaints have been received in this regard; and

(f) if so, what measures Government have taken in this regard and the steps taken to provide quality wheat and rice through the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (f) The implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for the procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of key essential commodities such as rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oils, superior kerosene oil and soft/CIL coke to the States/UTs. State Government/UT Administrations are responsible for all operational matters relating to the distribution of commodities to the consumers within their State/UT. The strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continuous process. Suggestions to impove the functioning of PDS are discussed regularly with States/UTs in the meetings of the Advisory Council on PDS as well as in separate Review Meetings.

Central Government has advised State Govenrments to introduce Door Step Delivery of PDS commodities to the Fair Price Shops in the areas covered under the Revamped PDS and to constitute Fair

Price Shop level Vigilance Committees of the consumers to supervise the distribtuion.

Central Govenrment has taken a number of measures to ensure that the items issued to the States/UTs for the PDS are of good quality. All necessary quality control measures are being implemented by the concerned Central agencies. Generally, the wheat and rice being issued to theStates/ UTs for the PDS is of good quality and is always in conformity with the standards prescribed in the Prevetnion of Food Adulteration Act. However, in an operation of such a vast magnitude such as the PDS, where millions of tonnes of foodgrains are being distributed through more than 4.25 lakh Fair Price Shops all over the country, a few shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out altogether. In order to overcome such difficulties, the Central Government has allowed State Governments and their nominees to check the quality of foodgrains in every lot before they accept the same. State Govenrments have been given the right to reject lots which are not conforming to the prescribed standards. Complaints in respect of inferior quality of foodgrains being sold by Fair Price Shops are dealt with at the district/sub-divisional level administrations for speedy and effective redressal of such grievances. State Governments have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act for taking action against persons indulging in such malpractices.

Target for Exprot of Indian Electronics and Software

846. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Electronic and Computer Software Export Council of India has set a target to raise Indian electronics and software exports to 1.58 billion US $ by the end of 1995-96;

(b) what factors have led the aforesaid council to target such a huge rise in exports of the electronics and software goods;

(c) what was the target for exports of such goods for the years 1994-95 and whether the said council had met fully its target; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has set a target of 1.58 billion US $ for export of electronic hardware, computer software and services, telecom services and project exports and VSNL services in 1995-96. This represents a growth of 29.22% over the performance in 1994-95 and is in line with current performance of the sector.

(c) and (d) The Council had fixed a target of US $ 1.02 billion for the year 1994-95. The actual achievement in the same year was US $ 1.23 billion.

Withdrawal of NCWA by CIL

847. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to withdraw the provisions of 9.4.2 and 9.4.3 of NCWA IV unilaterally by the CIL management and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there is any scope of such unilateral step in the NCWA IV and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b): There is no question of unilaterally withdrawing the provisisons of Clauses 9.4.2 and 9.4.3 of NCWA IV. However the management have proposed to modify, these clauses in consultation with the unions, in the light of the aberrations that have occured in